GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2248
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2016
Promoting Herbal Farming
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Will the Minister of AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to identify and map the indigenous medicinal/aromatic plants and the herbs across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for documentation of these plants and herbs in the country so as to protect them from being patented in other countries; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the conservation, cultivation and commercial exploitation of indigenous medicinal/aromatic plants along with the funds earmarked, allocated and utilised for the purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a) & (b): The Botanical Survey of India (BSI), an organization under Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has been carrying out survey, identification and documentation of all plant resources of the country including medicinal / aromatic plants and herbs. As per BSI estimate more than 8,000 species of medicinal / aromatic plants / medicinal herbs are found in the country.

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH under its Central Sector Scheme on "Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" is supporting Research & Development projects to various research organizations / institutions for conducting survey, identification, documentation of medicinal plants in the country. The NMPB through Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore has developed a database on Indian Medicinal Plants which contain information about the habitat and therapeutic uses of more than 7,000 medicinal plants species.
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This database is in public domain for access to the existing information (www.medicinalplants.in).

(c): Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) set up a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) for prevention of misappropriation from Patents grant. To prevent wrongful grant of patents in other countries access of TKDL has been given to International Patent offices under Access Agreement to European Patent Office, Indian Patent Office (CGPDTM), German Patent and Trademark Office, United States Patent and Trademark Office, United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office, Canadian Intellectual Property Office, Intellectual Property Australia, Japan Patent Office, Chile Patent Office, and Malaysian Patent Office.

(d): Since its inception in 2000, the NMPB has been implementing different programmes / schemes for overall development of medicinal plants sector in the country. The following Schemes are being implemented w.e.f. 2008-09:
i). Central Sector Scheme for "Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" which primarily aims at providing support for Survey, Inventorization, in-situ / ex-situ conservation, herbal gardens, Research and Development, linkage with peoples collectives like Self Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Forests Management Committees (JFMCs) etc.
ii). Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants" which primarily aims at providing support for cultivation of medicinal plants on private land with backwards linkages, for establishment of nurseries for supply of quality planting material etc. and forward linkages. Currently this Scheme is being implemented as a component (Medicinal Plants) of the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) Scheme of the Ministry of AYUSH.

The State / UT-wise details of the funds released and utilized under both the above Schemes during each of the last three years are at Annexure-I&II.
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